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"In fulfillment of the order of the Council of Ministers USSR, 30 March 1948, I order that in the third quarter of 1948, bases for the rental of construction and road machines be set up under the Glavstroymekhanizatsiya offices in Moscow, Khar'kov, Sverdlovsk, and Novosibirsk." This was over 2 years ago and there has been more than enough time to put the base into operating readiness since then.

In September 1948, the Moscow Soviet set aside a lot in Perovo for the base. The ministry's Main Administration for Construction ordered its Construction and Repair Administration to outfit shops for repair and maintenance of the machines, including a machine shop, forge shop, carpentry shop, and the building for housing the machines. No great alacrity was displayed in the ministry, however. In over 2 years, only one tenth the estimated funds required has been released for the construction of the base. At the present rate, the work will not be finished for 10-15 years.

Chumakov, director of the Moscow Construction and Repair Administration, displays the same indifference and dilatoriness as his main administration. The plan, calling for a moderate volume of work during this year, is not being met. The forge and carpentry shops were to have been completed in October, but they are still far from that goal. It is characteristic that the builders have not even found time to complete the planning for the interior of the shops which have been erected.

The existing situation does not seem to bother other employees of the ministry very much either. In August, the management of the Stroimekhanizatsiya Trust sent a letter to Surov, director of the Main Administration for Construction, and to Kirilyuk, secretary of its party organization, pointing out that there was cause for alarm in the intolerable situation prevailing at the base. These people made justifiable demands that measures be forthwith taken to assure the fulfillment of the plan for construction work within the time limit, set in June of this year by Deputy Minister Fedorov.

A copy of the letter was sent to Gusev, director of the Main Administration for Mechanization of Construction, and to Orlov, secretary of the party committee of the ministry. This letter merited serious consideration, but it has produced no apparent results.

The base has been listed as a going concern for 2 years, yet it cannot satisfy the ever-growing demands of Moscow builders. In the field of hoisting equipment, the base can offer only the small Pioneer crane, and the vertical-boom hoist. The cement mixers and mortar mixers available at the base do not compare to those now in use at leading Moscow construction sites. The base has only two excavators and three bulldozers. There is no place to do repair work on the machines, and they are allowed to lie out in the open. During the 2 years of its existence, a negligible amount has been spent on additions to the park.

A considerable number of resolutions have been made in regard to the Moscow Machine-Rental Base. It is unfortunate that the collegium of the ministry does not find out why they are so slowly and unsatisfactorily carried out. Demidov, chief engineer of the Main Administration for the Mechanization of Construction, has a singular "justification" for the tardiness in the completion of the base. "Properly speaking, we are a machine-building organization, and not a hiring outfit," he says.

The volume of building is growing this year in the capital, with many new multiple-story buildings going up. It is up to the ministry to see that the machine-hiring base is put into good operating condition, so that it may truly answer current construction demands.

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LACK OF BINDING STRIPS HOLDS UP SHIPMENTS -- Moscow, Trud, 24 Dec 50

Khar'kov enterprises of the Ministry of Construction- and Road-Machine Building, now producing for the big Communist construction undertakings, are suffering from an acute shortage of metal. Their metal is supplied by the Zhdanov Metallurgical Plant imeni Il'ich, but although this enterprise has a great deal of rolled metal ready to be shipped out, it cannot pack it since it lacks a sufficient supply of rolled binding strips.

Immediate measures should be taken to get this metal out to the consumers.

PLANTS RECEIVE AWARDS -- Moscow, Trud, 4 Nov 50

The Transferable Red Banner of the USSR Council of Ministers was awarded the Voronezh and Kovrov Excavator Plants.

Transferable Red Banners of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions and of the Ministry of Construction- and Road-Building Machinery have been awarded the Osipenko Road-Machinery Plant.

The Transferable Red Banner of the All-Union Central Council of Trade Unions has been awarded the Bryansk Road-Machinery Plant.

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